

CHINATOWN / THEATER DISTRICT

This area, located generally between the Back Bay and Downtown, is amongst Boston's fastest growing and is characterized by a mix of land uses existing in close proximity to each other. Completion of the Central Artery project and the development of air-rights over the Turnpike in coming decades promises to enhance the area's attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit.

New housing is in the pipeline for Chinatown, adding to the rich mix of commercial and residential uses in this historic neighborhood. To the west of Chinatown is the Theater District, which is also home to Emerson College. Further west is the residential enclave of Bay Village, the State Transportation Building, the Park Plaza Hotel, and the New England Medical Center. To the east of Chinatown is the Leather District, a grid of nineteenth century warehouse buildings that have been restored for business and residential uses. The Leather District is one of the most rapidly changing areas of Boston Proper.

Employment Areas in Chinatown/Theater District

Chinatown	2,600
Leather District	9,100
New England Medical Center	4,500
Theater District	17,900
TOTAL JOBS	34,100

Source: 1996 CTPS site-level employment database

These districts are hemmed in by the highway system. The Massachusetts Turnpike marks the southern boundary and has an on-ramp at Arlington Street. The I-93/I-90 interchange dominates the eastern corner with ramp access along Kneeland Street. Consequently, some of the largest downtown surface traffic volumes are found in this vicinity as traffic bound for regional destinations traverses this area to access the highway system.

The Stuart-Kneeland and Boylston-Essex street corridors serve as major east – west arterials for Boston. Columbus Avenue and Tremont Street carry commuter traffic bound for downtown Boston from the residential districts to the south.

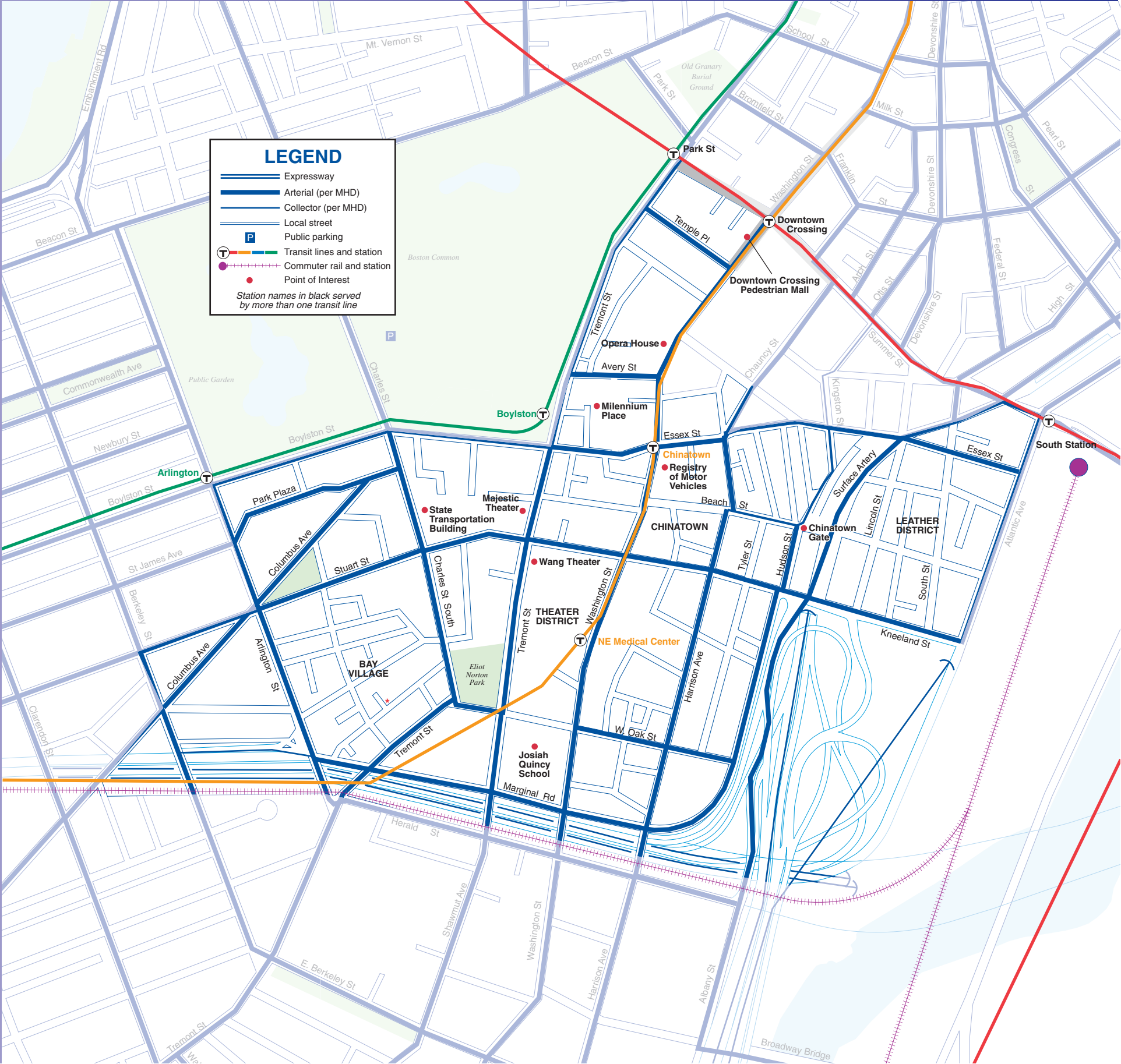
Roadway Volumes in Chinatown/Theater District*

Essex Street	6,000
Boylston Street	7,000
Arlington Street	16,000
Washington Street	2,000
Tremont Street	15,000
Kneeland Street	20,000
Surface Artery	23,000
Marginal Road	4,000
Harrison Avenue	2,000
Lincoln Street	12,000

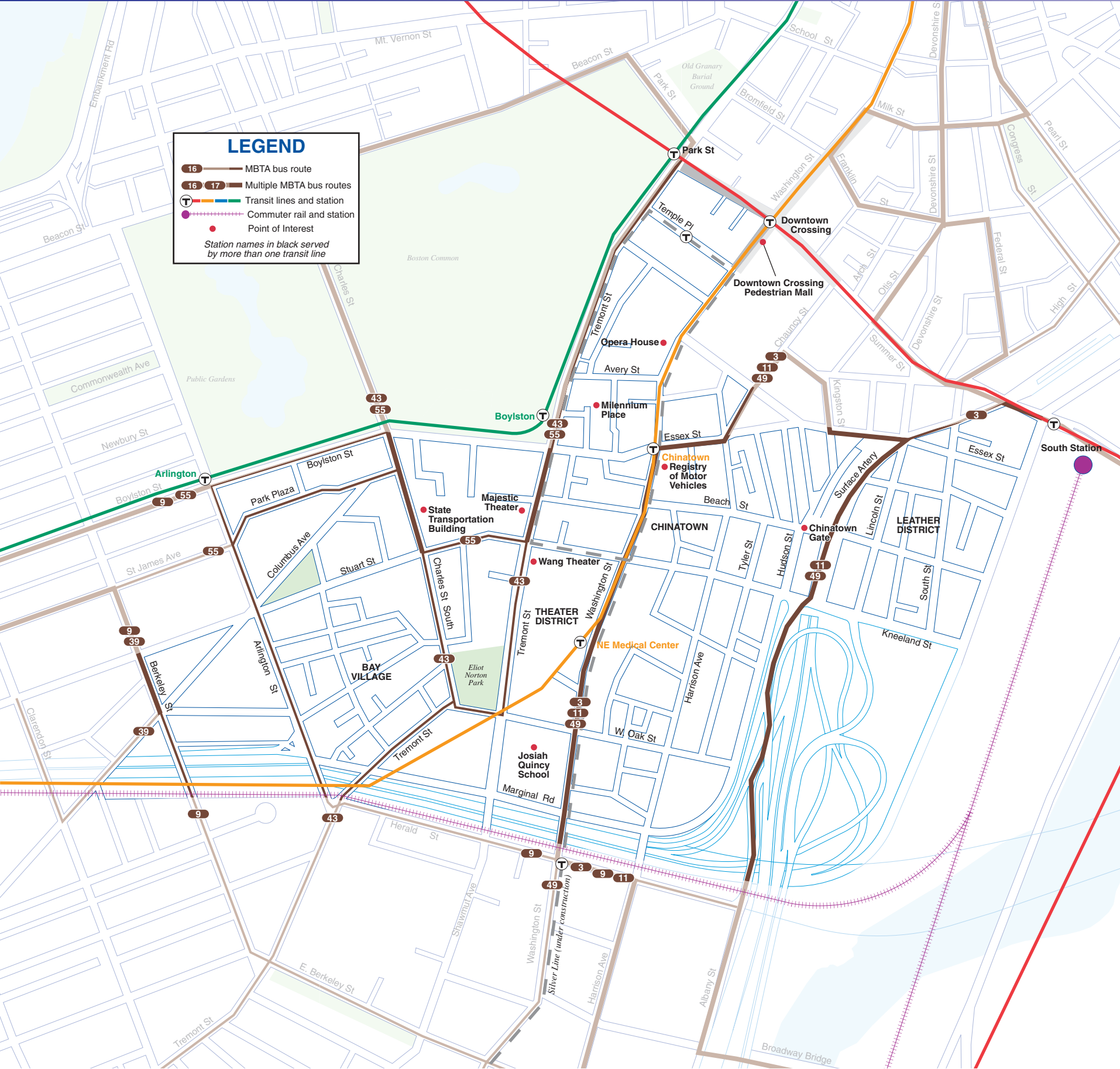
Source: CTPS

*Estimated daily traffic at a representative point

On-street parking in Bay Village, Chinatown and the Leather District is covered by Resident Permit



TRANSIT NETWORK



Parking Programs. There are also many large garages in these districts.

Walking is the dominant mode of travel in these districts, representing 96% of trips within the Chinatown/Theater District area. Walk-to-work trips, for example, account for almost a third of *all* work trips. Conversely, car ownership is amongst the lowest in the city. Transit share to the Chinatown/ Theater District from all parts of the Boston region is well above the City average. The 43% of trips which are not home or work based reflect the attractiveness of this area for all purposes. The theaters, restaurants and attractions present in this neighborhood bring many people to the area outside of typical commuter peak hours. Transit is well utilized, and traffic is often congested at nights and especially on weekends in this busy neighborhood.

Distribution of Trips and Mode Shares in Chinatown/Theater District

	Auto	Transit	Walk
All destinations and purposes	29%	32%	40%
City Average	51%	19%	30%

("walk" mode includes bicycle)

Geographic Distribution of Trips

% of Trips	Origin or Destination	Auto	Transit	Walk
30%	Within Neighborhood	4%	1%	96%
13%	Rest of Core	20%	24%	57%
22%	Rest of Boston	33%	52%	15%
19%	Inner Communities	40%	60%	0%
16%	Outer Communities	64%	36%	0%

Activity Distribution of Trips

% of Trips	Activity in Neighborhood	Auto	Transit	Walk
9%	Home	33%	20%	47%
48%	Work	23%	46%	31%
43%	Other	35%	18%	47%

The area is served by the Chinatown and New England Medical Center stations on the Orange Line and Arlington and Boylston Stations on the Green Line. Six bus routes also stop in the district. The most heavily used, Route #49, is being replaced by the Silver Line, a bus rapid transit service currently under construction. It will have direct routing to Downtown, new vehicles, and improved stations.

Daily MBTA Use by Station or Route*

Rapid Transit		
Chinatown		4,000
New England Medical Center		6,600
Boylston		5,950
Bus Routes		
3	South Boston Waterfront – Chinatown	350
11	City Point – Downtown	3,700
43	Ruggles-Downtown (Tremont St.)	3,700
49	Dudley-Downtown (Washington St.)	7,600

*Boarding counts only, not including transfers within stations. Source: MBTA and CTPS